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## SOCIOLOGICAL NOTES.

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[The editor of this department is glad to receive notes on all topics of interest to sociologists and persons working along sociological lines in the broadest acceptance of the term. It is not the purpose of these columns to define the boundaries of sociology, but rather to group in one place for the convenience of members of the Academy available bits of information on the subject that would otherwise be scattered throughout various departments of the ANNALS. The usefulness of this department will naturally depend largely on the measure of co-operation accorded the editor by other members of the Academy.]

Among those who have already indicated their interest and willingness to contribute are such well-known workers along sociological lines as Professor F. H. Giddings (Columbia College), Professor W. F. Willcox (Cornell University), Dr. John Graham Brooks (Cambridge, Mass.), Dr. E. R. Gould (Johns Hopkins University), Mr. John Koren (Boston), Hon. Carroll D. Wright (Washington, D. C.), Professor E. Cheysson (Paris), Mr. Robert D. McGonnigle (Pittsburg, Pa.), President John H. Finley (Knox College), Prof. D. R. Dewey (Boston), Rev. Dr. L. T. Chamberlain (New York), Dr. Wm. H. Tolman (New York), Dr. D. I. Green (Hartford), Miss Emily Green Balch (Jamaica Plains, Mass.), Miss M. E. Richmond (Baltimore, Md.), and others.

**Theory of Sociology.**—*Social Classes.* From few evils has Sociology suffered more than from a hasty acceptance of loose terminology. A poor classification of material and illogical use of terms is sure to lead to confusion of thought and unsatisfactory results. A good illustration of this trouble is found in the terms Dependent, Defective and Delinquent classes which have received an altogether too ready acceptance in our literature. These terms, it is true, are intended to cover only the pathological elements in society, and in order to get at a broader and inclusive classification for all social elements some writers have proposed the following :

A.—Independents.

B.—Dependents.

{ Destitutes.  
Defectives.  
Delinquents.

The insertion, however, of the term "Destitutes" to cover practically the same units as "Dependents" did in the first case is a more apparent than real solution of the difficulty. Alliteration is helpful to the memory and the classification in its second form has an attractive appearance, but it is illogical. Every teacher must have experienced some difficulty in explaining satisfactorily to his class how he proposed to distribute insane, blind, deaf, dumb, and criminal paupers, as well

as self-supporting blind persons and certain enterprising and successful criminals without hopeless confusion and an amount of over-lapping that rendered all classification a farce. No investigator can accept the classification for a moment and hope to make any use of the statistical method in his work. Professor F. H. Giddings rendered a very material service to practical workers in calling attention in forcible language to the defects of all such classification that savors of the nursery parallel, "rich man, poor man, beggar man, thief," and in turn suggesting a classification, scientific and logical in character and capable of practical application. In a paper read at the Twenty-second Annual Meeting of the National Conference of Charities and Correction, held at New Haven, May 24 to 30, 1895, entitled, "Is the Term 'Social Classes' a Scientific Category?" Professor Giddings said that no classification that was not fundamental and did not conform to the evolutionary principle of development would prove serviceable. He rightly claims that in this sense the term "Social Classes" is a scientific category and an essential factor in sociological investigation. The terms he suggests, under which all the units that make up the complex of human society at all periods of its development may be grouped are: (1) Social, (2) Non-social, (3) Pseudo-social, (4) Anti-social. Professor Giddings would maintain that at best Dependents, Defectives and Delinquents is a cross classification which may be valuable for some purposes in subsequent re-distribution of our units, but that his classification is fundamental and evolutionary. It is true that our body of statistics at present does not readily fall into any of these classifications. Statistics are constantly improving and the statistician is a most obliging individual, and always willing to follow the suggestions of the theorists. It seems almost impossible for him to arrange his figures to suit the present classification without the element of error showing a tendency to become infinitely large since few dangers that beset statistics are greater than those that come from repetition and over-lapping, while on the contrary should Professor Giddings' classification be generally accepted, and some further definition of his terms be agreed upon no great obstacle to the collection of a useful body of statistics need be encountered. Professor Giddings' paper will appear in the published proceedings of the conference and his classification can receive more careful consideration when we see the use he makes of it in his forthcoming volume.

**Associations.**—*American Institute of Sociology.* That organization, formerly known as the American Institute of Christian Sociology, has recently been reorganized on a broader and more scientific basis, which will enable workers in all lines of sociological effort and representing all shades of belief to combine in a really effective

national organization. The new constitution declares the object of this institute to be : First, to investigate the facts concerning society as a whole, *e. g.*, its origin, growth, structure, functions, laws, forces, ideal ; second, to promote the use of all available truth for the betterment of society's condition to the end of the highest individual, domestic and collective, well-being. The definite work of the institute has not yet been officially outlined, but it is generally understood that an annual meeting or convention will be held, on which occasion those interested in sociology can come together to exchange papers and discussions on fundamental and practical problems. Definite lines of investigation will be undertaken by the institute, and the results of such efforts made public in some official organ or series of publications. There is certainly room for such an organization in America, and its efficiency and opportunities for usefulness can hardly be overestimated. Under its present energetic leadership in the person of the president, Rev. Dr. Leander T. Chamberlain, of New York, a vigorous and effective policy may be expected.

*The Church Social Union.*—The old organization under this name which had something over one thousand members, has recently been revived, and a new union is ready to go to active work. Its objects are : First, to claim for the Christian law the ultimate authority to rule social practice ; second, to study in common how to apply the moral truths and principles of Christianity to the social and economic difficulties of the present time ; third, to present Christ in practical life as the leading Master and King, the enemy of wrong and selfishness, the power of righteousness and love. Membership (entitling to publications) is open to all communicants of the Episcopal Church upon application to the secretary and the payment of one dollar. Subscriptions to the publications are received from non-members at two dollars per annum. Bishop Huntington is president ; Bishop Potter, Rev. Joseph Reynolds, Rev. Robert A. Holland, Professor Richard T. Ely, and Mr. George E. McNeil are vice-presidents ; the secretary is Rev. Dr. George Hodges, 3 Mason street, Cambridge, Mass. It is proposed to issue two series of publications. Series "A" will appear about the first of each month, and the numbers will consist of papers stating or bearing upon the general position and principles of the Church Social Union. Series "B" will be issued about the middle of each month, and contain papers stating or bearing upon more concrete, economic, or social themes. The first number of series "A" is a paper by Rev. Dr. Robert A. Holland, entitled "The Church of the World." It contains a statement of the work which the church, as an organization, and Christian laymen, as a body, may profitably undertake in the study and treatment of social disturbances and grievances

of our time. We presume that this article may be taken as an official statement of the views of the Church Social Union. It contains many valuable suggestions concerning the relation of the Church-at-large to the interests of the industrial and laboring population. Such literature, and indeed the work of the union, cannot fail to do much good in the limited sphere which it has chosen. It is a pity, however, that both this article and the aims of the union should not give a broader scope to the term "Church," and avoid the strict sectarianism which cannot help but provoke antagonism.

**Charities.**—*The Twenty-second Annual Meeting of the National Conference of Charities and Correction* was held at New Haven, May 24 to 30, 1895. Yale University and the people of New Haven were excellent hosts. Over 200 delegates were in attendance and represented all sections of the country and many institutions of learning as well as the leading State boards of charities and many charitable and correctional institutions. At the general meetings held each morning reports from all the States were read and chronicled an interesting array of facts indicating hopeful progress in approved methods of work in both public and private institutions. Besides these reports at the morning sessions the following general topics were in turn discussed: (1) Work of State Boards of Charities; (2) Homes for Soldiers and Sailors; (3) The Feeble-minded; (4) The Insane; (5) Training Schools for Nurses. The evening sessions were also general meetings and devoted to papers on "Sociology in Institutions of Learning," "Child-saving Work," "Administration of Public and Private Relief," "Charity Organization," "Juvenile Reformation" and "The Tramp Problem" respectively. The afternoons were taken up by sectional meetings, much smaller in their attendance and devoted rather to discussion and conference between workers in the same line of work. Of these sectional meetings perhaps those on Charity Organization and Child-saving Work were the largest and most active. It is quite impossible in the available space to give here even the names of the specialists who took part by paper or discussion in these various meetings not to speak of the subject-matter presented. We must refer those interested to the forthcoming volume of the proceedings which is sent gratis to members of the National Conference or can be had on payment of \$1.50 from the corresponding secretary, Mr. H. H. Hart, State Capitol, St. Paul, Minnesota. The set of the proceedings of past conferences, some volumes of which are already out of print, is quite the best source of practical information on these subjects in America.

*Oberlin Summer School of Christian Sociology.* At a convention held at Oberlin last November it was unanimously agreed to hold

during the coming summer a school of Christian Sociology to study the subject mainly from the practical side and as the art of social control, rather than as a completed science. Such a gathering is to be held from June 20 to 29, about the time this number of the *ANNALS* goes to print. The persons announced as engaged to take part in the instruction represent widely differing points of view and interests. The general subject for this year is the "Causes and Proposed Remedies for Poverty," and the list of speakers includes Rev. Dr. Washington Gladden, the presiding officer; Mr. Thos. J. Morgan, Socialist and Labor Leader of Chicago; Mr. Samuel Gompers, ex-President of American Federation of Labor; Mr. James R. Sovereign, Grand Master Workman of the Order of Knights of Labor; Mr. N. O. Nelson, of St. Louis; Professor J. B. Clark, of Columbia University; Professor S. F. Weston, of Western Reserve University; Mr. Z. Swift Holbrook, Professor E. I. Bosworth, of Oberlin; Miss Jane Addams, of Hull House, Chicago; Rev. Drs. H. M. Tenney and James Brand, of Oberlin, and Rev. Dr. Levi Gilbert, of Cleveland.

M. Léon Lallemand, the distinguished French authority on all that pertains to charity and charitable institutions, has recently presented to the Institute of France a very full report of the history and work of the American National Conferences of Charities and Correction. He traces some of the leading topics of discussion through the different conferences and gives French readers a very good clue to all the bibliographical references. His report which has been reprinted in pamphlet form,\* will serve to make known American charitable efforts much more widely in France.

*Home for Epileptics.*—The late Rev. Dr. W. A. Passavant long cherished the idea of founding in America a home for poor and unfortunate epileptics, where they could be treated in a manner similar to that of the original home for epileptics founded seventy-five years ago at Bielefeld, Westphalia, Germany. What he was unable to accomplish during his lifetime, his friends have now done in his memory, and such a home has been established at Rochester, Pa. Valuable property owned by the Board of Deaconesses of the Lutheran Church, which has for thirty-one years been used as an asylum for orphan girls, has been devoted to the work. Dr. Passavant was the first to introduce a Protestant order of Sisters of Charity in this country, and the work at the Epileptic Home will be conducted under their supervision. The matron, Sister Amalia, and two assistants have been brought from the Norwegian Hospital at Chicago and others will be added as soon as they can be procured. The superintendent is

\* *Les Congrès Nationaux d'Assistance et de Répression aux États-Unis.* By LÉON LALLEMAND. Pp. 22. Paris: Alphonse Picard et fils, 1895.

Rev. J. H. Kline, himself a former patient at Bielefeld and one of the few persons who have recovered from this mysterious and horrible disease. The site chosen for the new home contains eighty-one acres, wooded and under cultivation, and the buildings will accommodate about forty patients. More applicants have already been received than can be cared for. Rev. Dr. Passavant, Jr., the president of the new home, claims that there are 125,000 epileptics in the United States, for whom up to the last year no retreat has been established. The treatment will be simple and direct. The first great need of the epileptic is a place where he can be at rest; he is very sensitive, and in most cases far worse off than the lunatic who knows nothing of his insanity. In the new home the chief purpose will be to surround the patient with all the beauties of nature and give him such food as will contribute to a healthful, quiet life and tend to calm his troubled spirit. The Rochester home for epileptics is a hopeful sign of the right sort of charitable activity in this country.

*People's Baths.* Philadelphia is falling in line with the good work done in New York in the establishment of people's baths. Through the efforts of Miss Sarah D. Lowrie, the Public Baths Association of Philadelphia was organized on February 7, 1895, and incorporated on March 18, 1895; the association being formed, as stated in its charter, "For the purpose of establishing and maintaining public baths and affording to the poor facilities for bathing, and the promotion of health and cleanliness."

The following were elected as trustees to serve for the present year: Eugene Delano, president; Charles A. Brinley, vice-president; Miss Sarah D. Lowrie, secretary; Franklin B. Kirkbride, treasurer; Mrs. Mary S. Fox, Mrs. Rebecca P. Hunt, Barclay H. Warburton, Alfred G. Clay, Mrs. Julia M. P. Dulles, Mrs. Harriet W. Jones, Walter Lowrie, and Dr. Lawrence S. Smith.

The association has bought the Southwest corner of Berlin and Gaskill streets, between Fourth and Fifth and Lombard and South streets (40 x 60), where it proposes to erect its first public bath and wash house. The data collected by the officers of the association in regard to the public baths of other cities both in this country and abroad, is being used to make the plans of the Bath House as perfect as possible. The experience of "The People's Baths" of New York City, having been found especially valuable.

It is proposed to have in the basement a public wash-room with about twenty sets of tubs, with steam driers, mangles, etc., where for a small fee women can do their family washing. On the first floor, the office, men's waiting-room and baths; on the second floor, the women's waiting-room and baths, and on the third floor, rooms for the

janitor. There will be no tank, individual shower-baths being the form of baths to be used.

It is hoped to have about twenty-five baths for men and nearly as many for women. There will be a limited number of tubs for the use of children and women who will not use the shower-bath. This should give a capacity of nearly 1000 baths per day. The bathers will be charged a small fee and will be supplied with soap and towels.

The architect is now working on the plans, and it is hoped that the construction of the building will be commenced in the near future.

The association is now engaged in raising funds to cover the cost of erecting the Gaskill street bath-house, estimated at about \$25,000, and all donations will be gratefully received by the treasurer, at 517 Chestnut street, or by the *Evening Telegraph*, Philadelphia.

**Labor Question.**—*The Toynbee Society of Philadelphia* is a recently formed organization which has met with much favor in the eyes of many conservative but energetic reformers and attracted some attention from local labor leaders and organizations. It is avowedly interested in the welfare of the labor-side in industrial conflicts because it believes this to be the weaker side and the one most solicitous of intelligent help and direction, but it stands for honest, fair methods of inquiry and peaceful and dignified modes of procedure. It was organized for the promotion of the interests of wage-earners, and rightly bears the name of that noble spirited young Englishman who gave his life in the interests of a more sympathetic and intelligent appreciation of the cause of labor. Every large city should have a Toynbee Society, that would stand ready to bring organized intelligence of the highest order to bear on all labor troubles, inform the public quickly and thoroughly of the real points at issue in any outbreak and by sympathy and help encourage the workingman to act in harmony with his real interests and not be misled by blind passion or self-centred leaders. The aims of the Philadelphia Society are :

*First.* To bring together and to increase the number of those who sympathize with all proper efforts of wage-earners to improve their economic and social conditions.

*Second.* To render practical assistance to the wage-earners of Philadelphia and vicinity in such efforts.

*Third.* To promote a public sentiment which will protect and encourage them in the exercise of their right to organize, and to agitate peacefully for necessary reforms.

*Fourth.* To promote a better understanding between them and their employers ; to discourage resort to strikes, and to endeavor to bring about conciliation and arbitration as a method for disposing of labor



differences ; and yet, where all such means fail, to support peaceful insistence upon just and reasonable demands.

*Fifth.* To secure reliable information concerning the wage-earners of Philadelphia and vicinity, with a view to educating public opinion, fostering wise legislation, and creating a sentiment favorable to the cause of labor.

*Sixth.* To confine ourselves to the discussion of practical measures, leaving to other organizations the consideration of social panaceas.

There are no stated dues and any one in sympathy with the aims of the Society is eligible for membership. The following officers have been elected :

*Officers.*—George Gluyas Mercer, President ; Wm. N. McVickar, Vice-President ; Edward T. Devine, Treasurer, 111 S. Fifteenth Street ; M. V. Ball, Secretary, Twenty-first Street and Fairmount Avenue.

*Executive Committee.*—George G. Mercer, Wm. N. McVickar, M. V. Ball, Wm. M. Salter, Chas. Richardson, W. I. Nichols, Samuel S. Fels, S. M. Lindsay, Edward T. Devine.

*Railroad Strike of 1894.* In the first number of series B of the Publications of the Church Social Union,\* Professor W. J. Ashley, has prepared a useful collection of material for a study of the great strike of 1894. The pamphlet contains the text of the Report of the U. S. Commissioners and the statements of President Geo. M. Pullman and Second Vice-President T. H. Wickes of the Pullman Company. All of which Professor Ashley has preceded by a carefully prepared analysis of the facts at issue and a fair outline discussion of the important principles at issue, such as, "the right to strike," "the right to strike sympathetically" and "the social expediency of arbitration." Not the least valuable feature of the Monograph is the Bibliography compiled by Mr. Francis Watts Lee, of the Boston Public Library, which contains numerous references to the more notable contemporaneous newspaper and periodical comment on the strike.

*Chicago Strike and the Papal Encyclical on Labor.* Two papers in the number of the publications of the American Economic Association† to which reference is made below are worthy of attention. Mr. Wright's contribution on the "Chicago Strike," which is a direct and thoughtful outline of certain tendencies in our federal government in its relation to labor, and the insistence of the epochal nature of the Chicago strike, make it worthy of the careful consideration of all

\* Publications of the Church Social Union. Issued semi-monthly. Series B, No. 1, April 15, 1895, "The Railroad Strike of 1894." The Statements of the Pullman Company and the Report of the Commission together with an analysis of the issues, by W. J. ASHLEY. Contains also a Brief Bibliography. Cambridge, Office of the Secretary, 3 Mason St., 1895. Pp. 115, price 10 cts.

† See "Unemployed." Page 190.

persons interested in the cause of labor. Perhaps the papal encyclicals do not play as important a rôle in this country or exert as great an influence upon the working population of America as is the case in Europe. Nevertheless, Mr. Brooks' explanation of the purpose and meaning of the attitude that Leo XIII. has taken toward the social question, which constitutes the other paper referred to, is worthy of attention.

*Slums of Great Cities.* The seventh special report of the Commissioner of Labor has appeared, and gives us the text of the report\* on the slums of some of our great cities and the tables on which that report is based which has formed a subject of much newspaper comment in recent months.

In order to carry out the investigation authorized by Congress asking for information relative to the slums of cities containing 200,000 inhabitants and over, as shown by the Eleventh Census, it would have been necessary to have investigated sixteen cities, with a total population of over 8,000,000 people. From the best information obtainable from the municipal authorities of these cities, the slum districts contained, at the least calculation, about 800,000 people. The appropriation placed at the disposal of the Department of Labor was, of course, inadequate for any such undertaking. Four typical cities were, therefore, chosen, with a slum population aggregating 77,000, according to the census of 1890; but covering, according to actual count in 1893, over 83,000 persons, and the results of that investigation, which is supposed to be typical of such conditions in other cities, are given in the present report. These 83,000 persons by no means represent the total slum population of Baltimore, Chicago, New York and Philadelphia; but only such sections of congested districts in these cities as were, upon consultation with the municipal authorities, determined upon. The total slum population of Baltimore is estimated at 24,000; of Chicago at 162,000; of New York at 360,000; of Philadelphia at 35,000, and the number of persons covered by this investigation was in these cities in round numbers—18,000, 19,000, 29,000, 17,000 respectively.

In general, the results of the investigation show that liquor saloons, in proportion to population, are about twice as numerous in these congested districts as in the cities at large, and that arrests are much more frequent; that an analysis of the population shows the percentage

\*"Seventh Special Report of the Commissioner of Labor. The Slums of Baltimore, Chicago, New York and Philadelphia." Prepared in compliance with the joint resolution of the Congress of the United States, approved July 20, 1892, by Carroll D. Wright, Commissioner of Labor. Pp. 620. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1894.

of males to be greater in the slum districts; that the percentage of foreign-born is much in excess of other sections; that illiteracy is many hundred per cent greater; that the foreign voting population in these districts is very large; that the occupations of the residents of such districts are as varied as in the cities at large; and that the average earnings of the people generally are quite up to the average in the cities at large. The statistics of health show no greater sickness prevailing than in other parts of the cities involved; a fact that occasioned no little surprise to the canvassers. Full and detailed tables are presented in this report which bear out these general statements.

**Unemployed.**—*Report of the Massachusetts Board.* The complete report\* of the Massachusetts Board to investigate the subject of the unemployed has now appeared and makes a large volume of over 800 pages, which can be obtained from the Secretary of the Commonwealth, Boston, on application, and enclosing postage to the amount of thirty cents. A more extensive review of this important publication will appear in the Book Department of the ANNALS in the near future. At present suffice it to say that the conscientious efforts of the Massachusetts Commission have placed in the hands of students of this subject a carefully prepared report of the relief work undertaken in all our large cities during the winter of 1893-94, with special reference to the cities of Massachusetts, together with a detailed statement of the emergency relief obtained in Great Britain, and the more or less complete discussion of the work for the relief of the unemployed in Germany and Switzerland. The five parts of this report which have been issued separately now appear under one cover, which constitute an important contribution to different phases of the subject. This report, together with the report of the Labor Department of the English Board of Trade and various articles and pamphlets which have appeared on the subject of the unemployed, constitute a notable mass of material for the serious study of a pressing problem in American social and industrial conditions.

Professor Davis R. Dewey, who was Chairman of the Massachusetts Commission on the Unemployed, prepared an interesting paper for the Seventh Annual Meeting of the American Economic Association on the subject of "Irregularity of Employment." This paper now appears in print in Nos. 5 and 6 of Volume IX of the publications of the association.†

\* "Report of the Massachusetts Board to Investigate the Subject of the Unemployed." Part I, Relief Measures; Part II, Wayfarers and Tramps; Part III, Public Works; Part IV, Causes; Part V, Final Report. Pp. 800. Boston: Wright & Potter Printing Company, State Printers, 18 Post-Office Square, 1895.

† Publications of the American Economic Association, Vol. ix, Nos. 5 and 6. Five papers read at the Seventh Annual Meeting at Columbia College, December

Professor Dewey discusses the causes of the irregularity in employment, as classified by the Labor Department of the English Board of Trade and in reports of New Zealand. He takes the consideration of one point that is too often omitted in such discussions, that much unemployment is due to the unwillingness of men to accept lower wages because of custom or outward pressure in a particular trade, in other words, loyalty to an organization, in which case non-employment is voluntary, but may be no less disastrous in its consequences. Statistical material, Professor Dewey tells us, is limited in this country to two sources: the census of the unemployed of 1885, published by the Bureau of Labor in 1887; and the report of a certain number of manufacturing establishments in Massachusetts, published by the State Bureau of Labor in an annual volume entitled "Statistics of Manufactures." Both of these sources are incomplete and fragmentary, and exact statistical knowledge is likely to elude the accurate investigator. Professor Dewey lays some stress upon the effects of the introduction of machinery, which, in some cases, while it may displace men, on the other hand, if the machine is a large, costly and complicated one, it may prove too expensive an affair to allow to remain idle, and, therefore, contribute to a regularity of employment, rather than belong in the general class of machines that cause, to some extent, non-employment.

*The Detroit Plan for the Cultivation of Vacant Lots.* So much interest has been taken in the experiment that Mayor Pingree made last year in Detroit, that demands for detailed information as to its results have been very wide-spread. The New York Society for Improving the Condition of the Poor has a special committee on the cultivation of vacant lots by the unemployed at work making extensive plans for the introduction of the scheme in New York. The schedule, to be filled out for each applicant for ground, contains many questions of far-reaching sociological interest, especially four columns which will indicate for each person whether he is country or city born. This will be interesting material for testing some theories arrived at on a purely deductive basis from an inductive point of view. A little circular giving a report of the experience in Detroit, has been prepared and can be had on application to the secretary, Dr. William H. Tolman, 105 E. Twenty-second street, New York City.

In New York the committee had to go some distance to get land,

27 to 29, 1894. First, "Modern Appeal to Local Forces in Economic Life," by J. B. Clark, Ph. D.; second, "Chicago Strike," by Carroll D. Wright, LL. D.; third, "Irregularity of Employment," by Davis R. Dewey, Ph. D.; fourth, "The Papal Encyclical on Labor," by John Graham Brooks; fifth, "Population and Capital," by A. T. Hadley, M. A. Price, 75 cents.

but it has obtained the use of tracts aggregating several hundred acres comparatively accessible to the city. Each applicant must fill out the blank furnished him, and if properly endorsed by some responsible person, he will be allowed the use of a quarter of an acre of land for cultivation during the summer, the proceeds from the sale of which will be given to him. In worthy cases where there is a large family, a half acre may be granted. Minneapolis, and Toledo, Ohio, have also adopted the plan; while Los Angeles, St. Paul, Syracuse, Chicago, Buffalo, St. Louis and Philadelphia are planning for a similar experiment. Most of the information as to the actual results in Detroit has thus far come from one source, and it is reasonable to believe that there may be some difference of opinion, in degree at least, as to the ultimate success of this scheme. It is certainly worth trying, and only in the lapse of time can sufficient data be obtained for a judgment as to its ultimate importance. That it will reach the lowest strata of unemployed whose unemployment is largely due to shiftlessness and utter inefficiency, may well be doubted. It may, however, help the strata of the unemployed somewhat above this lower level, and not only prevent them from sinking lower, but also start a tide back to agricultural pursuits, and away from the deep misery of the lowest social classes in our large cities.

**Vacation Schools in New York City.**—While the families of the well-to-do obtain some refreshment at the seashore or among the hills, thousands of children in New York have no other diversion beyond the hot and dusty streets of New York City. Last year the New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor advanced funds for the teachers' salaries of the vacation schools. The association maintained during six weeks of the heated term of July and August attractive manual labor training, sewing and kindergarten schools, free to every child willing to attend, in three public school buildings assigned by the Board of Education in the most populous districts. The number of attendances was 28,000, averaging daily 933. The cost of the six weeks' term was only eleven and a half cents for each child. The liberality of the Board of Education, the cordial co-operation of the teachers, the eager response of the children, and the small cost of a great result proved so encouraging that the managers of the association have now pledged \$5000 to repeat the experiment this year on a larger scale, the Board of Education having unanimously authorized the use of several school buildings. Mr. Warner Van Norden, 25 Nassau street, New York, is the treasurer of the fund for this purpose, and the work is in charge of the New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, 105 East Twenty-second street, New York City.

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